

# THE BAPTIST Record

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BAPTISTS

## Conference fills First Church, Jackson

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

First Church, Jackson, played host to the Extraordinary Women Conference on October 12-13. The conference, a ministry of the Extraordinary Women Association in Forest, Va., brought thousands of women together for a weekend of music, inspiration, and encouragement.

The event was a collaboration between Extraordinary Women and Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (wMu). According to wMu consultant Kathy Burns, "When we discovered the EWomen conference event was the same weekend as our State Women's Retreat, we decided to collaborate. We didn't want the women of Mississippi to have to make a choice, so we were able to have an exhibit at the conference, and had space in the printed program. It was a great Kingdom event. In days ahead, perhaps we can do more collaborative events like this one."

Julie Clinton is president of Extraordinary Women. "Extraordinary Women Association is a women's ministry affiliated with the American Association of Christian Counselors," Clinton said. "We realized over the years that most counseling takes place over a cup of coffee, with a woman asking another woman, 'Can you help me through this difficult time? So we started training women with our women's curriculum which is called 'Extraordinary Women,' a 30-hour course with which a participant can earn a certificate at the end of the study."

The conference featured an all-star lineup. Charles Billingsley, formerly of Newsong who has a successful career as a solo artist, led worship. Point of Grace, a four-person Christian music group that has been awarded eight Dove Awards, nominated for two Grammy Awards, and sold five million albums, shared in concert Friday night.

Speakers during the general sessions included Lisa Whelchel. Whelchel's first professional acting experience was as a

Mousketeer for The New Mickey Mouse Club, but she is perhaps best known for her starring role as Blair Warner on NBC's *The Facts of Life*. "I was actually in ministry before *The Facts of Life* because I've known all along that God had a call on my life. I just live my life one day at a time." Whelchel is a best-selling author and speaker, with her first book, *Creative Correction*, selling over 140,000 copies.

Angela Thomas, a popular speaker and author, spoke during one of the Saturday general sessions. Thomas, a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, was a minister to senior high girls at a church in Charlotte, N.C. Married, with four

children, Thomas and her husband divorced, and she states that her life experiences, positive and negative, have drawn her into a deeper passion for knowing God.

"I was actually teaching before I went to seminary," Thomas said, "but the venue has sort of changed in the last four or five years. Who would think the Lord would use a woman like me? But the Lord walks you out of the dark. He has shored me up with His overwhelming



**BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE** — Angela Thomas, speaker at the Extraordinary Women event at First Church, Jackson, keeps the attendees in stitches as she shares her story of what God has done in her life, and how He will "replace their sack of ashes for a crown of beauty." (Photo by Tony Martin)

love. In my private world, I pray that I never lose my desire to grow spiritually, in that inside that nobody sees, and when I stand up and do what I do, I want to give everything the Lord gave me to give, and when I'm done, I'll have that assurance. I do know there is a call on my life, and I believe what I am doing now is just exactly what God has put me on earth to do."

Other speakers included Carol Kent, author and international speaker, who is a former radio show co-host and a frequent guest on *Focus on the Family*; Jennifer Rothchild, who began losing her eyesight at age 15 to a rare degenerative disease, and now is an in-demand speaker and author; and Michelle McKinney Hammond, best known for her hard-hitting reality checks as a speaker, writer, counselor, and

television co-host.

Beth Cleveland, director of the Extraordinary Women events, said, "We have 14 events planned for next year, and it takes about 100 volunteers to make this happen — there are almost 3000 women at this event. Our goal is to pour into the lives of these women, refresh them, lead them into worship, so that they'll be refreshed to build into their families and churches when they get home."

## 2007 Miss. Baptist Pastors' Conf. — Oct. 29, First Church, Jackson

### SESSION ONE 1:15 - 4:35 p.m.

1:15 p.m.  
Prelude Praise  
Praise Team  
Steep Hollow Church  
Poplarville

1:30 p.m.,  
Worship and Praise  
Alex Craft  
Steep Hollow Church

1:35 p.m.  
Welcome and Prayer  
Shannon D. Marshall,  
President  
Steep Hollow Church  
Poplarville

1:40 p.m.  
Message in Song  
Paid in Full  
New Albany

1:50 p.m.  
Message  
Danny Lanier  
Northcrest Church  
Meridian

2:35 p.m.  
Special Music  
David Ball  
Poplarville

2:40 p.m.  
Election of Officers

2:45 p.m.  
Special Music  
Bengi Rigney  
Picayune

2:50 p.m.  
Message  
Tony Lambert  
First So. Baptist Church  
Del City, Ok.

3:25 p.m.  
Congregational Singing  
Alex Craft

3:30 p.m.  
Offering/Offertory Prayer  
Buddy Sheriff, Treasurer  
Union Church, Picayune

3:40 p.m.  
Message in Song  
Paid in Full

3:50 p.m.  
Message  
Kara Blackard  
Wheeler Grove Church  
Corinth

4:35 p.m.  
Prayer  
Gene Douglas  
McComb

### SESSION TWO 6:30 - 9:15 p.m.

6:30 p.m.  
Worship and Praise  
Alex Craft

6:35 p.m.  
Welcome and Prayer  
Shannon D. Marshall

6:40 p.m.  
Message in Song  
Alex Craft

6:50 p.m.  
Message  
Ronnie Floyd  
First Church  
Springdale, Ar.

7:25 p.m.  
Offering/Offertory Prayer

7:35 p.m.  
Concert of Praise  
Paid in Full

7:55 p.m.  
Message  
Phil Hoskins  
Higher Ground Church  
Kingsport, Tn.

8:30 p.m.  
Special Music

8:35 p.m.  
MESSAGE  
Mac Brunson  
First Church  
Jacksonville, Fl.

9:15 p.m.  
Prayer  
President-Elect





## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# The best answer

It is a rare occasion for Mississippi Baptist Convention Board employees attending out-of-state meetings when the question doesn't come up: "So, what are Baptists fighting about in your state?" Aside from being a sad commentary on the status of cooperation among Southern Baptists

in general, the question is often accompanied by a long sigh and a look of weariness betraying the fact that such battles have been going on in too many places for far too long.

One of the most devastating weapons in Satan's arsenal has to be disunity among the fellowship of believers. We know that because he uses it so often and with such debilitating effectiveness. The results

speak for themselves.

In several "old line" Southern Baptist states, there are now two state conventions. In some places, there are two Baptist state newspapers. In other places even the Cooperative Program isn't very cooperative, having been carved up to represent diverse factions that have very little in common.

What a shame.

Mississippi Baptists will gather next week in Jackson for their annual meeting to praise the Lord, tend to the business of the convention, connect with old friends and former co-workers, find out what's new in ministry, and — did I mention this already? — praise the Lord.

That's where the focus of the meeting will be, because praising the Lord is what Mississippi Baptists do when they get together. There may indeed be issues raised that pit one brother against another on the floor of the convention. There may indeed be disagreement over those issues but, if Mississippi Baptists remain true to form, there won't be disunity. The issues will be heard and acted upon, and the body of churches known as the Mississippi Baptist Convention will move forward.

Mississippi Baptists obviously have a great respect for one another, and an unshakable faith in each other. That's evident at each annual meeting of the convention. Like most organizations the size of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, there are many viewpoints on the present and future direction of the convention. Those viewpoints, and the people who express them, are treated fairly and diplomatically, free of insult and personal attack. That's not true in all state Baptist conventions.

Mississippi Baptists should see for themselves how fortunate we are to be unified and how blessed we are by that unity. Every Mississippi Baptist should take time to serve as a messenger from his/her church. Every church in the convention should be represented by messengers. Unlike many Christian denominations where an unapproachable ecclesiastical hierarchy hands down edicts from on high, the leadership of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is entrusted to the churches.

Under our system of polity, the churches oversee the convention, not the other way around. It's a wonderful system of governance, and has served us well in Mississippi for almost 200 years.

Every Mississippi Baptist should see it for themselves. Ask your pastor how to attend the Mississippi Baptist Convention as a messenger. If your pastor isn't sure, ask him to call (800) 748-1651, ext. 201, to find out how to get involved in the annual meeting.

That way, when we are asked the regrettable but inevitable question, "What are Baptists fighting about in your state?" the answer will be, "The only fight in our

state is the one to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus, and we're all in agreement on that!"

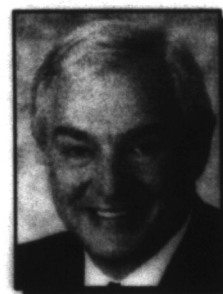
Could there be a better answer?

## SEMINARY ALUMNI MEETINGS

**Southwestern Seminary** will have its annual alumni meeting Oct. 30, noon, at the Jackson Capital Club, on the 19th floor of the Capital Towers building at the corner of Pearl and Congress Streets. Evan Lenow, Director of Leadership Development at Southwestern, will be the guest speaker. For information, contact Paul Blanchard at (662) 773-3366 or amd@winstonbaptist.org.

**New Orleans Seminary** will have its alumni reunion Oct. 30 immediately following the morning session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in Fellowship Hall West, First Church, Jackson. President Chuck Kelly, guest speaker. Space is limited; meal is \$15. Contact Ben James at (601) 968-8806 or email benjames@bell-south.net or Lee Yancey at (601) 968-3800 or email lyancey@christianaction.com.

## GUEST OPINION:



### Making the most of life's autumn

By David Jeremiah  
El Cajon, Ca.

everlasting to everlasting. You are God" (Psalm 90:1-2).

There's a lot of unwelcome change in our world. Moral and societal changes bother us most when we turn on our television or glance at the magazines. We're painfully aware our kids are growing up in a world far different from the one we knew as children.

Personal changes come, too — children leaving home, the passing of dear friends, and the slow, steady decline in our vitality and health. Sometimes we feel outdated at work.

Amid all the changes, one thing, one person, never changes — our eternal God. His children will enjoy His fellowship a million years from now. The world may fade, the stars may fall, the seasons may

change and winter may come, but the God who has been our help in ages past is our hope for years to come. In Him we have permanence, stability, joy unshakable, and life unending.

We've all suffered setbacks along the way. But God promised, "I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten. ... You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God" (Joel 2:25-26). His divine forethought knew it all in advance, and He can be trusted with what has happened to us in years past.

Our omniscient Savior knows the end from the beginning, and He will bless whatever is yielded to Him. Focus on His foreknowledge, providence and sovereignty.

The autumn of life is a great time to focus on God's wonderful blessings — family, friends, strength, shelter, provision, guidance, care, fruitful ministry, opportunities to serve, more time to pray and study His Word, and eternal life still to come. During life's autumn, we have a richer perspective and can count more blessings than ever before.

Autumn is a good time to focus on your commitment to God. Some of the saddest words in the Bible are in Jeremiah 8:20, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

If you've never made a commitment to Jesus Christ, do it now, while there is still time. If you are a follower of Christ, remember to remain close to Him during the shifting seasons of life.

During autumn, we all know that winter lies ahead, but if winter comes, can spring be far behind?

Jeremiah is the founder of Turning Point for God and senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Ca. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. For more information on Turning Point, visit [www.TurningPointOnline.org](http://www.TurningPointOnline.org).



# First of 12 Bible-based movies in theaters

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Parents hungry for family friendly movie options in a theater setting finally may have an answer, and it comes from a new company with ambitious goals.

The company is Promenade Pictures and its first movie is *The Ten Commandments*, which was released October 19 and is the first in a 12-part computer-animated movie series dubbed, *Epic Stories of the Bible*.

Another movie, *Noah's Ark — The New Beginning*, is halfway through production and will be released next year. A film about David and Goliath is in the early planning stages. All are fully funded and will be released in theaters, Promenade officials say.

Live-action films also are planned, the first of which will be *Gideon's Gift*, based on Karen Kingsbury's novel, followed by a movie on the life of Salvation Army founder William Booth.

Promenade was founded in 2003 in part by Frank Yablans — the former president of Paramount and CEO of MGM/UA — with the sole goal of producing movies based on Judeo-Christian values.

Yablans and others no doubt hope the movies will find a market for families who enjoy theatrical releases — along with the popcorn, drinks and large-screen environment — but struggle to find films clean enough to support.

Unlike some Christian movies that go straight to DVD, Promenade's films will first release in theaters, company officials say. Film budgets will range from five million dollars to \$20 million.

"I'm a member of the audience that is so hungry to see these kinds of movies," Promenade President Cindy Bond told Baptist Press. "In fact, that's how

I started in this because as a believer I was very disappointed in the kind of movies that Hollywood was producing. I wanted to see movies made that would inspire people and give them hope — all within an entertaining context, of course.

"Here we are with the most powerful tool in the world, which is the media, and I wanted to use it to glorify God."

A veteran in the family movie industry, Bond served as producer of *The Ten Commandments*, which has its share of well-known Hollywood talent. Academy Award winner Ben Kingsley is the narrator, Christian Slater is the voice of Moses, and Elliott Gould is the voice of God.

It is being released nearly 10 years after another animated film based on the life of Moses, *DreamWorks' The Prince of Egypt*, was released. The two films, though, have significant differences. While *The Prince of Egypt* essentially ends with the Israelites crossing the Red Seas, *The Ten Commandments* follows the Israelites through their disobedience at Mount Sinai and ends with them entering the Promised Land.

Additionally, *Ten Commandments* is more biblically based. For instance, Aaron and Moses together go before Pharaoh; in *Prince of Egypt*, Moses went alone.

The movie is being released days after a poll showed that American adults are more familiar with the ingredients of a McDonald's Big Mac than they are with the *Ten Commandments*. For instance, 80% of the 1,000 people polled knew that "two all beef patties" were an ingredient of the hamburger, although only 45% knew that "Honor thy father and mother" was one of the commandments.



Twenty-five percent of adults could name all the ingredients of the Big Mac, compared to 14% who could name all *Ten Commandments*. The poll was conducted in September by Kelton Research for the *Ten Commandments* Commission.

"This is a call to action," said Bond, who was saved young at a Billy Graham Crusade. "We want these movies to be the tool to get people reignited who already know about these stories, and for those that don't know about them, to get them interested and get them back in the Bible to get their lives prioritized."

The fact that Promenade's first picture is being released a full four years after its founding is significant, Bond said.

"After we founded the company we stayed under the radar because we were getting the work done," she said. "We felt as soon as we had a movie complete and another one in production that we would then come out and do all the press, which is contrary to the way Hollywood works. In fact, our entire company is contrary to the way Hollywood traditionally works."

In addition to the aforementioned movies, Promenade's website lists seven additional films — most of them live action — on the drawing board.

"We are building a modern-day Buena-Vista," Bond said. "It's a full-service production, marketing and distribution company, because we want to be the destination point for films that will

embrace these types of values."

Promenade's theatrical launch comes one year after 20th Century Fox started FoxFaith, a distribution label for faith-themed DVD and theatrical movies. FoxFaith began with the goal of releasing at least six movies in theaters each year but almost certainly won't hit that mark this year. It had three theatrical releases earlier this year but hasn't put a movie in theaters since March's *The Ultimate Gift*.

Additionally, its website is not promoting any new releases for theaters. FoxFaith's movies did mostly sub-par in the theaters, although DVD sales have performed much better, Christianity Today's website reported earlier this month in a story about the ups and downs of the label's first year.

"We're alive and well," Steve Feldstein, senior vice president of Fox Home Entertainment, which oversees FoxFaith, told Christianity Today. "We are very much in the business."

Bond believes Promenade has the budget, infrastructure, and marketing in place to succeed.

"FoxFaith was birthed out of a home video model," she said, adding she respects what that label has done. "We're a theatrical motion picture company."

*Editor's note: The Ten Commandments is approximately 90 minutes in length and rated PG for mild peril. For more information, visit [www.10CommandmentsMovie.com](http://www.10CommandmentsMovie.com).*

## ENDA moving ahead

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. House of Representatives' Education and Labor Committee passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) on October 18 by a vote of 27-21, sending to the full chamber a bill that critics say will infringe on religious freedom and help normalize homosexuality. If signed into law, it would place "sexual orientation" into a category similar to race, gender, and age, and force employers and even Christian businesses, schools, and daycares to hire homosexuals. A full House vote could take place early next week. "We have made history today by taking steps to ensure that discrimination based on sexual orientation is wrong and will not be tolerated," U.S. Rep. Rob Andrews, D-N.J., said in a press release. Opponents, though, say the bill itself discriminates — against people of faith. "[S]mall businesses, schools, non-profit groups, hospitals, clinics, counseling centers, even certain religious institutions would be required to hire homosexuals..." Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council wrote in an action alert. "An employer's faith, moral view, the sensitivity of their work, or service or the makeup of their clientele is of no consequence. Private schools, daycare centers, scouting organizations, and quasi-religious organizations will not be exempt." The bill does exempt some religious organizations, such as churches, but experts say those exemptions are narrow. "It would not seem that Christian schools would fall under the exemption for ENDA, so ENDA could seriously affect the hiring rights of a Christian school," Maureen Wiebe, spokeswoman for the American Association of Christian Schools, told Focus on the Family's CitizenLink. The bill is H.R. 3685. Christian leaders are encouraging concerned individuals to contact their representative through the Capitol switchboard, (202) 224-3121.

## Looking back

10 years ago

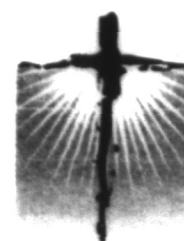
The executive committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board elects Tammy Anderson as Acteens consultant in the Mississippi WMU, and Kimily Waldron as associate director of the BSU at Ole Miss.

20 years ago

In a surprise announcement which stuns the faculty and student body, W. Randall Lolley announces plans to terminate his presidency at Southeastern Seminary after 13 years. The 56-year-old Alabama native is the only alumnus to serve as Southeastern president.

30 years ago

Millard J. Berquist, pastor, First Church, Tampa, Fla., is elected first president of Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., the newest theological seminary in the SBC.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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## Olan Mills to provide directory

Olan Mills Church Directories is providing a convention directory in partnership with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Persons eligible for the directory include: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board staff and agency directors/ administrators, pastors, associate pastors, staff ministers, evangelists, and associational missions directors. All eligible persons must be serving in Mississippi at the present time.

Photographs will be taken on October 29-31 during the 2007 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson. Photographs will be taken in Fellowship Hall East, in the exhibit area:

- October 29, 12 noon, 6 p.m.
- October 30, 8 a.m., 6:30 p.m.
- October 31, 8 a.m., 10 a.m.

## MC to host Health Fair

The Mississippi College (MC) School of Nursing will host a Health Fair on October 30 during the 2007 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson. The Health Fair will be located on the fourth floor of the church and will offer \$25 flu shots as well as free health screenings which will include blood pressure checks, glucose checks, cholesterol checks, financial screening/information, and vision/hearing. Resources and referrals on a wide variety of health topics will also be available.





# YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## SPLAT!

They are called lovebugs. I do not know and do not believe I have ever seen the actual scientific designation for the little creatures. Probably if someone told me I would not be able to pronounce it, but during the late summer and early fall they sure can be a nuisance. There is a lot that I do not know about lovebugs. I know they are little black insect-looking creatures that get together with other little black insect-looking creatures to which they apparently are attracted. Although I am not aware of the lifecycle process of the lovebugs, I assume that the union in which they are generally found is probably a part of their effort to perpetuate the species. That is somewhat the information I have been told. Whether it is fact or just simply folklore, one thing I know for certain and that is for many of them whatever is taking place between them comes to an abrupt halt on the front of my car or on the windshield. Sometimes driving through the lovebug population, it sounds like rain hitting the car — splat splat, splat splat. The love is over! While you may not realize it, there are some valuable lessons our churches could learn from the lovebugs and their sudden demise on the front of our cars.

One thing that is important to remember is that love can be a very fragile thing. You can see that reality almost anywhere you look whether it is in the marriage relationship, in a church fellowship, or in a ruptured friendship. Without having to detail any of the stories, you can fill in the blanks from



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

your own personal experience. Everything seemed to be going great. Love seemed to abound everywhere and then splat! As with the lovebugs, our love can be so fragile and so quickly damaged. Sometimes it is a word that is said or a word that is not said. Sometimes it is a thoughtless deed or the failure to carry out a good deed. Sometimes it is just a decision that you may not understand or at least do not agree with and love seems to be seriously damaged. You would think that in the Christian community, those of us who know the Lord, love Him, and want to do His will would not be that fragile but in fact, we are.

I think of Paul and Barnabas, two great Christian leaders both of whom I have such admiration for, when they had a clash of opinions about strategy. One believed that the missionary work would be enhanced and strengthened by including Mark in the plans. The other fiercely opposed, disagreed, and wanted Mark left out. Splat — they parted ways.

With that in mind, a second bit of information that can be gleaned by all of us is that generally the splat is irreparable. When lovebugs meet an automobile grill at 55 to 65 miles an hour, I have yet to see them bounce off and go

on as though nothing happened. No, the reality is the love is over. As a pastor for decades, one of the painful aspects of ministry has been to see loving relationships crash never to be renewed. I certainly am aware that God can restore us and He can restore relationships. He can work miracles even after the splats in life, but frankly, those experiences of God's gracious redemptive, restoring work are far too few and too far apart. There is great joy to be seen, experienced, and shared with others when the prodigal son does come back home, and when Paul and Barnabas recognized the wealth of worth in both of them and they got back together. When love is given a chance in our hearts, our homes, and our churches it is a wonderful thing and far better than just scraping off the windshield of life and throwing the love experiences into the trash can or washing them down the road.

That brings me to a third instructive idea that all of us would do well to pay attention. When love is alive and well and something comes along and splat takes place, there is a mess left behind. That is about the best I can do in explaining it. It is just a mess. Anyone who has ever driven through miles

of the swarms of lovebugs knows exactly what I am saying. For those of you who may not know I can only wish that you could have the opportunity to experience it. To get the former loving bugs off your windshield is not easy and to get them off the front of your car will probably remove some of the paint. That sudden little splat from those love creatures can leave marks and scars that possibly will still be there when you get rid of your car.

I guess things will continue without much disruption even though many of us may contribute to the depopulation of the lovebug colony, but the saddest of all things is the splats that take place in our love relationships are indelibly etched on our hearts, sometimes leaving a mess that we never attempt to cleanup, remove, or renew. Through the years, I have seen so many funeral experiences that were marked by the pain and scars of non-reconciliation. Family members were on the outs with each other and now it seems nothing can be done. Former friends and fellow saints in Kingdom work receive word or pick up the paper and read of the death of someone that they had such a painful disagreement with and now the pain is compounded because of the memories of what was done and maybe the accompanying anger because it cannot be undone. As with the little lovebugs that go splat on the front of your car, if you do nothing about it I can assure you that the disagreement will ruin where it hits and even spread beyond that. The moral that you and I miss if we are not careful is that God has provided for us through Jesus Christ to be cleaned up and to clean up the messes around us. We are a people who God wants to forgive and then we are a people who God calls to forgive. He does and when we do, it is amazing what God does in us, through us, and for us.

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**WANTED: FULL-TIME MINISTER** of Music/Media and Outreach, Westminster Baptist Church, Westminster, Md. See our Website at [www.Westminster-Baptist-Church.org](http://www.Westminster-Baptist-Church.org) for position description.

**CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME** seeking Christian House parents for boys home located in Northwest Alabama. For more information, please call (256) 356-8900 or (256) 810-4908.

**SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, CHRISTIAN** owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092; Don & Rita Sebre, owners.

**GATLINBURG CABIN RETREAT:** 2 bdrm/2 baths, sleeps 6. Full kitchen, view smokey Mt. from deck, \$95/night. For info email at [pdw4760@att.net](mailto:pdw4760@att.net) or call (251) 689-9981 or (251) 689-9982.

**LIFE & HEALTH INSURANCE CHEAP;** major medical, medicare supplements, and EZ issue Life, Call Tommy Miles, (800) 258-6366 or go to [www.cheapins4u.com](http://www.cheapins4u.com).

**DAVE RAMSEY'S E.L.P. FOR HEALTH** insurance. Supplements, long term care, & disability, (601) 941-3922.

**THE WYOMING SOUTHERN BAPTIST** Convention is searching for a Director of Associational Missions for Southwest Wyoming. Candidates will need to be appointed by the NAMB. For a ministry description and/or to submit a resume please contact Pam Hans, Administrative Assistant, 3925 Casper Mountain Road, Casper, WY 82601; 307-472-4087; [hans@wyomingsbc.org](mailto:hans@wyomingsbc.org).

**UNIQUE MINISTRY: HOMEBOUND** Sunday School Teleclass Honor Your Faithful Homebound Church Members who are now unable to attend church. Provide a Sunday School class via conference calling. We make it easy for them and affordable for your church. Some students say it's the high point of their week. Call Tom Parker at 1-888-968-6186.

**Price Harris**

Spring 2008 Dates:  
♦ January 20, 27  
♦ February 17  
♦ March 2, 9, 16, 30  
♦ April 27  
♦ May 11, 18, 25  
♦ June (all dates)  
♦ July 6, 13  
♦ August 3, 10, 17, 24

Other dates available by request.

## "Hearing is Believing"

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## MS POSITIONS

**SMALL SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH** seeking bi-vocational music leader. If interested please send resume to music search committee, P.O. Box 363, Walnut Grove, MS 39189.

**STEELE BAPTIST CHURCH, FOREST, Miss.,** is searching for a bi-vocational music minister. Please submit resumes to Steele Baptist Church, attn: personnel Committee, 8977 Hwy 21, Forest, MS. 39074.

**LAMAR BAPTIST ASSOC.,** SEARCHING for a Director of Missions. Interested persons should send resumes to Lamar Baptist Association, 2843 Hwy 589 Hattiesburg, MS 39402, attn: search committee.

**OAK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH IN** Meridian seeks pianist. Responsibilities include Sundays and Wednesday evenings. Send resume to P. O. Box 3938, Meridian, MS 39303.

**ORGANIST WANTED** at First Baptist Church, Mendenhall, MS. Contact Bob Jones (601) 847-2488 or [fbc\\_bobjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:fbc_bobjones@bellsouth.net).



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 25, 2007

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



## 2007 BAPTIST WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER November 5, 2007

**Theme: GOD'S COMPASSION –  
SEEING WITH NEW EYES**



Scripture: "Yet this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope. Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. I say to myself 'the Lord is my portion,' therefore I will wait for Him. The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him." Lamentations 3:21-25

### Strategic Objective:

**To encourage prayer as a vehicle  
for making changes in the world.**

Resources: Download a PowerPoint here: [www.buwc.bc.ca/index.php](http://www.buwc.bc.ca/index.php).

Download Prayer Guide and Program here:

<http://www.bwawd.org/clientimages/36375/dop2007.pdf>

To order copies of this CD (\$7 ea.) write an

E-mail: [womenbwa@bwanet.org](mailto:womenbwa@bwanet.org)

Donations in North America should be mailed to:

NABWU, PO Box 4114, Topeka KS 66604-4114

For more information, contact Mississippi wMu at  
601-292-3319 or 1-800-748-1651.

#### Mission Statement:

To encourage and celebrate  
unity in Christ among Baptist  
women of the world and work  
towards peace, reconciliation,  
justice and development  
through prayer, witness and  
service.

## BIVO ACTIVITIES

SLATED FOR UPCOMING  
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Brothers, smart ladies and friends.....we have a big day planned at the start of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Our council will convene at 3 p.m. on Monday, October 29, 2007, in the Sky Room on the 4th floor of the Baptist Building. All Mississippi bivocational ministers and their wives are invited to a banquet and dialogue at 5 p.m. We will break at 6:30 to attend the Pastors Conference at First Baptist, Jackson.

Please E-mail or call Kay McDonnell ([kmcdonnell@mbcb.org](mailto:kmcdonnell@mbcb.org) or 601.292.3305; 800.748.1651, ext. 305) to confirm your attendance.

#### Tentative schedule for Monday, October 29, 2007:

- 3 p.m. Mississippi Council on Bivocational Ministries Meeting
- 5 p.m. Bivocational Ministers and Wives Banquet
- 5:30 p.m. "What's Happening in Your Life, Your Family and Your Church?"
- 6:30 p.m. Pastors Conference, First Baptist, Jackson

## Bivo/Small Church Ministers & Wives Retreat

Providing a time of encouragement,  
inspiration and fellowship

**November 30 - December 1**  
**Enon BC, Grenada**  
Lodging: Holiday Inn Express

Leaders:  
**Bryan Presson**  
**Joel Medina**

Contact Lowell Ingram, 662-226-5071, for info on scholarships, and contact the Holiday Inn Express, 662-226-5071, Grenada, Miss., for info on lodging.  
Sponsored by: Pastor/Leadership Development Department

## DEACON MINISTRY EMPHASIS

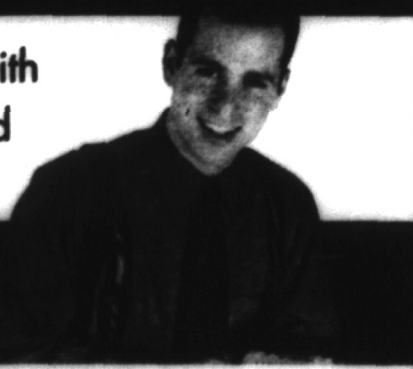
**Deacon Ministry Emphasis** is a plan with specific actions that highlight deacon ministries and involve deacon training and service.

The Purpose of Deacon Emphasis is to:

- Focus on their biblical role
- Build team relationships
- Secure involvement in ministries
- Develop skills for ministry

January 2008 is designated by the MBCB as the month to emphasize deacon ministry, however it may be conducted at any time during the year.

For information, contact: Pastor/Leadership Development, Keith Gordon,  
601-968-3800, extension 307, or 1-800-748-1651





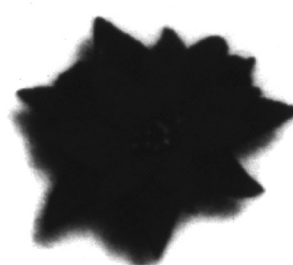


Will Rensley  
Bobby Proffitt  
Richard Rensley

1-888-845-6151

**YOUTH MINISTER'S  
RETREAT**

NOVEMBER 5-7



## The Suit Project

### What is the suit project?

For over 43 years Mississippi Baptists have enjoyed sending new suits to pastors in need. Many of these pastors have no suit nor have the extra money to purchase one. By the suit we are letting the pastors know that we care about them and that we support them.

### What can I do?

Simply make a donation to the ministry. Each suit will cost \$135. This can be as little as \$10. Men's Ministry groups, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, to WMU groups. For churches and individuals looking for a ministry that really touches someone's life, the Suit Project is the perfect answer.

### Where do I send my donation?

Make your check payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and designate it for the Suit Project.

### Mail to:

Men's Ministry Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

*Come apart before you  
come apart!*

## Ministers' Mates Luncheon and Ministers' Wives Conference

**Monday, October 29, 2007**

### CAMP GARAYWA

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Garaywa

Conference: 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Garaywa

**LUNCHEON:** Enjoy the sweet fellowship of pastors' wives and other ministers' spouses along with good food while listening to a testimony by Linnie Scarbrough and music by EverPraise.

**CONFERENCE:** Following lunch in the Garaywa Dining Hall, the Ministers' Wives Conference begins at 1:30 p.m. in the Garaywa Activities Building with special speaker, Rita Sweatt.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about lunch, contact WMU Department, Kathy Burns (kburns@mbcb.org or 601-292-3324) or about the conference, contact Pastor/Leadership Development Department, Kay McDonnell (kmcdonnell@mbcb.org or 601-292-3305).

**SHUTTLE:** A shuttle will be available from the Baptist Building parking lot.



**Ministers' Mates Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.**

*Camp Garaywa*

**Testimony: Linnie Scarbrough**

(a minister's mate)

**Music: EverPraise**

Rebecca Cooper, Lori Schuler, Kathie Sorensen



**Ministers' Wives  
Conference, 1:30 p.m.**

*Camp Garaywa*

**Special speaker:  
Rita Sweatt**



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*Merry Christmas  
to pastors in the  
Baptist Convention  
of Maryland/Delaware*

### *Pastors' Wives*

If funds are available, we will send a clothing gift certificate to the pastor's wife! Often they go without things that they want or need to support their husband's ministry. This is a wonderful way to show them that they are not forgotten and that the support they provide their husband is truly appreciated.

THE  
BAPTIST  
FAITH &  
MESSAGE

## 2008 BAPTIST DOCTRINE STUDY

preview brunches

with Matt Buckles

First Baptist Church, Vicksburg, pastor

Monday, January 28, 9 a.m.-noon  
Central Hills Baptist Retreat

Thursday, January 31, 9 a.m.-noon  
Patterson Place, Camp Garaywa

Preregistration is requested by January 18. The \$10  
registration fee includes the full brunch and LifeWay's new  
study course book, THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE  
by Charles S. Kelley, Jr., Richard Land and  
R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (2007).

For more info: Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept.  
601-292-3287, 1-800-748-1651 or dhicks@mbcb.org



**Come, follow me,  
and I will make you  
fishers of men...**

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

SPECIAL MUSIC BY

FEATURED SPEAKER

**YOUTH EVANGELISM CHALLENGE**

**December 27-28, 2007**

at College, A. F. Wood Coliseum - Clinton

For more info, contact the Evangelism Department, 601-292-3223

## Interim Pastor Training



Thirty-Eighth Avenue BC  
**Hattiesburg**  
**November 13**  
9 a.m. - noon

LED BY:

**Alan Woodward**  
Director

MBCB Pastor/Leadership Development Department

**Frank Harmon**

MBCB Church-Minister Relations Department

For more information, contact  
Pam May, Church-Minister Relations Department  
601-292-3225, 1-800-748-1651,  
or E-mail [pmay@mbcb.org](mailto:pmay@mbcb.org)



# Pray this day for...

October 26 - November 15, 2007

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

Today the people of the Former Soviet Union number 284.1 million. There are nine people groups without Gospel access. There were 61,000 suicides in 1995. Pray that we'll be burdened to pray for their salvation.

Rejoice! Recently missionary apprentice Howard Hicks has seen several young Bolivians come to Christ. Pray for Howard as he disciples each new believer. Pray also that Bolivian members of the Sinai church will continue to "catch the vision" for reaching Bolivian immigrants in Buenos Aires through reproducing simple house churches.

There are at least three people in Zerna of Niger who want to be baptized, but are struggling with fears. Ask God to strengthen them and show them the right timing to be baptized. Praise God for their salvation and boldness though persecuted daily. Ask Him to give them daily opportunities to share Jesus with their family and friends.

Brian and Jennifer Musser, Levittown, Penn., are campus ministers at Drexel University, a school of 18,000 students with less than 100 active in anything Christian. Pray that they will make slow, but steady, progress in establishing the first ever Baptist Campus Ministry.

(1) Ministers' Mates Luncheon, Camp Garaywa (WMU); (2) Ministers' Wives Conference, Camp Garaywa (P/LD); (3) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (100-member Board), Baptist Building, Jackson (MM); (4) Lay Mission Conference and Banquet, FBC, Jackson (MM); (5) Bivocational Ministers' Ministers' Wives Council Meeting Banquet, Baptist Building, Jackson (P/LD).

(1) Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer (WMU Emphasis); (2) Youth Minister's Retreat, Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville (D&FM-Youth); (3) Wayne Dyer of Hampstead, N.C., is a squadron chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the USAF. Pray for the cadets as he leads a moral leadership time each month for future military and civilian leaders.

The "Jesus" film was produced in July 2007, in the heart language of the Luguru of Tanzania, and has already resulted in Muslims turning to Jesus. Please pray for God to powerfully use the "Jesus" film in the Luguru language, and intercede for the few Luguru believers and workers from multiple ministries who are partnering in showing the film.

(1) AMD & Seminary Extension Directors Breakfast, Baptist Building, Jackson (P/LD); (2) Chaplain's Fall Banquet, Baptist Building, Jackson (MM); (3) Mississippi Baptist Convention, FBC, Jackson, 30th-31st.

Trey and Robin Cates of Barre, Vt., are Nehemiah church planters with the Green Mountain Association. Pray for them as they plant a church in Northfield. Pray for God to open hearts to the Gospel and to bring them passionate co-laborers for the harvest.

The Mandinka believers of West Africa are small in number. A Mandinka pastor feels called to go and encourage the Mandinka believers and invite them to a gathering. Ask God to protect this pastor's family while he is away. Pray for these scattered believers to see themselves as part of the body of Christ.

(1) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Baptist Building, following the last session of the convention; (2) Pray that God will use one of the new Koyaka of Cote D'Ivoire believers to be a link between the Koyaka and those whom God is sending from a church in Arkansas to reach this special people.

(1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS, 7th-9th; (2) Islamic tradition says that only one of 1,000 men will go to hell. However, only one of 1,000 women will go to heaven. They must earn their way to paradise through participation in the Five Pillars of faith. But in South Asia many women are not allowed to attend mosques. Pray that women will seek the truth in God's Word.

(1) Pray that believers in Jesus, among the Nafusa Berbers of North Africa, will live in obedience to Christ, will grow in their faith and will tell others the Good News; (2) Please pray today for President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan (eastern Asia coast).

Barbara Greenfield of Princeton, Ky., is an MSC director of Bright Life Farms, home to 16 mentally or developmentally challenged adults. Praise the Lord for the gifted mission teams who came this year. Pray for strength for the staff to serve with Christian love.

An international Christian was out collecting some data for a research project when he was stopped by two young men on a motor bike. The driver was very nervous and was stuttering. The believer asked him what he wanted. The young man replied "An Injil" (Gospel). The brother graciously handed him a Gospel in the Devanagiri script.

Nkenga Baptist Church in Mbunda of Western Zambia is in a remote village far from paved roads, but it is not forgotten. No missionaries are near enough to teach them regularly now, but members have had solid, biblical teaching in the past. Pray that they will recall the Bible stories and be like the church in Acts 2:42.

Pray for expectant Chinese parents who are faced with agonizing choices that could have devastating results. Pray that Christians in these situations will cling to His truths, and that non-believers will treasure blossoming human life that has been entrusted to them.

(1) Accompanist Conference, Brandon BC, Brandon (CM); (2) Continue asking the Lord to reveal Himself to the Lake People of Western Europe. Pray that the Holy Spirit will put a hunger in their hearts and give them "wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

God is at work among the Northern Yemeni Arabs. Some believers have been telling the message to a young woman who came to faith through meeting a believer and reading the Scriptures. She faced opposition from family and friends when she shared ideas with them about the Savior. Ask God to use her as a messenger of God to her people.

The West Africa Engagement Team has recently completed a report on the D people, a large group of more than 100,000 people, with no known Christians. The Ds practice African tradition religion and Islam. They have not heard the Good News of Jesus. Ask God to send a strategy coordinator church to reach the D people.

Pray for the thousands of Kazakhs who live in the village areas where they have no exposure to the gospel. Pray that believers will feel drawn to go to these areas to share the good news.



JANUARY



ONE VOICE

November 4  
FBC, Jackson, 6 p.m.

Mississippi Family FEST



on the Gulf Coast July 26-30, 2008  
... more info coming soon  
from the Mississippi WMU!

## ENCOURAGE AN MK TODAY WITH A CARD!

1/3/96  
MISS KATELYN R. BROWN  
Parents: Donald & Donna  
Central & Eastern Europe

1/18/06  
MISS NAOMI K. LOGAN  
Parents: Chadwick & Keyes  
Western Europe

1/5/93  
MISS MELEAH D. PEACOCK  
Parents: Kevin & Brenda  
Middle America

1/21/97  
MR. CALEB E. HOLYFIELD  
Parents: Michael & Patricia  
Central & Eastern Europe

1/5/91  
MISS CASSANDRA ROBERTSON  
Parents: Steve & Ruth, West Africa

1/25/89  
MISS STEPHANIE YOUNG  
Parents: Steven & Laura  
Middle America

1/8/92  
MR. STEVEN D. ALEXANDER  
Parents: Mark & Karen, South America

1/26/89  
MISS HANNAH M. RAY  
Parents: Michael & Linda  
Central & Eastern Europe

1/15/05  
MR. ISAAC BEAMAN  
Parents: Brad & Lenora, Last Frontier

1/27/00  
MISS AIMEE YEAGER  
Parents: Tommy & Jennifer  
Last Frontier

1/16/95  
MR. AUSTIN S.  
Parents: Jerry & Kelly, Last Frontier

Due to security reasons, full names or region of service may not be published.

Due to security reasons in many countries, cards should not include any wording referencing church, Christian, God, missionary, etc.

Cards will be forwarded. No magazines or periodicals can be forwarded.

Please send all to:

Child's name, Parent's name  
MBCB wMu MK Birthdays,  
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.

HOUSE TOPS



## Homecomings & Revivals

**Beulah Church, Newton County: Revival, Nov. 4-7; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal, and 7 p.m. night-ly; Gary Felton, speaker; Danny Harrison, music; Keith Ramage, pastor.**

**Evansville Church, Coldwater: Homecoming, Nov. 11, 10:30 a.m. Bernette Fielder, speaker; Dennis Landrum, pastor.**

**First Church, Durant: Homecoming, Nov. 4, 11 a.m., followed by meal and fellowship, music, and testimonies, 1:30 p.m.; Ed McDaniel, pastor.**

**Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg: 100 year anniversary, Oct. 27-28; Sat., meal, 5 p.m., Lamar Christian School; Jim Futral, speaker; Sun., services at the church, followed by meal; for information, call (601) 264-2427.**

**Lilly Orchard Church, Moss Point: 50th Homecoming, Oct. 28; worship, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds with more music; Marc Meyers, speaker; New River Boys, music.**

**Ludlow Church, Ludlow: Homecoming, Oct. 28; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner; Gary Lawson, speaker; Dwight Cooper, music; Gary Lawson, pastor.**

**Lula Church, Madison County: Homecoming, Nov. 4, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Joe Little, pastor.**

**Maybank Church, Hattiesburg: Homecoming**

**and revival, Oct. 28-31; Sun., 10 a.m., followed by fellowship meal and 1 p.m. service; Gerald Aultman, speaker; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jerry Corley, Gerald Penton, and Scott Murphy, speakers; Freddie Odom, music; Jon Kittrell, pastor.**

**Mt. Olive Church, Okolona: Homecoming/Thanksgiving/Harvest Festival, Nov. 11; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and singing, 1:30 p.m.; Joyful Noise Quartet, music; Marion M. Tumberlinson, pastor.**

**New Hope Church, Sumrall: 174th anniversary, Oct. 28; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 1:15 p.m.; Glenn Shoemaker, speaker; Kelton Ingram and Jeffery Coulter, music; Charles Broome, pastor.**

**Ruth Church, Ruth: Homecoming and revival, Oct. 26-28; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m., with singing, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Wiley Reid, speaker; That Other Trio, music.**

**Salem Church, Tylertown: Homecoming, Oct. 28; services, 10:00 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Billy Brumfield, speaker; Three Bridges, music; Mark Wicker, pastor.**

**Toxish Church, Pontotoc Association: 170th anniversary, Oct. 28; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner; Pontotoc Ridge Dulcimer Club concert, 1 p.m.; historical presentation and wreath laying, 2 p.m.; Blue Mountain College Chorale, music; Rusty Miller, pastor.**

## Just For the Record

**Lakeshore Church, Jackson, will host the Dixie Echoes in concert Oct. 28, 6 p.m.**

**First Church, Fannin, will present a community fall festival Oct. 29, 5-8 p.m., with children's games, hay rides, inflatables, giant slide, pony rides, cake walk, face painting, and Smiley the Clown. No charge.**

**Hollywood Church, Sledge, is hosting its annual Harvest Day Nov. 19. Services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Jim Henry, speaker; Kate Campbell, music.**

**Concord Church, Booneville, will host a Trunk or Treat Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m., including free hot dogs, drinks, and a pumpkin decorating contest.**

**Liberty Church, Liberty, is hosting a Hallelujah Praise Time Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m., including a costume contest, candy walk, maze, hay ride, rock climbing wall, spacewalk, and refreshments.**

**Leflore Church, Grenada County, will present its Hee-Haw program Nov. 10, 7 p.m., with fish plates being sold beginning at 5 p.m. For more information, call (662) 227-1259.**

**Mt. Carmel Church, Carthage, will host the Southern Plainsmen in concert Nov. 4, 10:30 a.m., followed by a covered dish lunch.**

**Castlewoods Church, Brandon, is hosting a Heroes of the Reformation tour Oct. 31, 6:30 p.m., with refreshments, fellowship, and an opportunity for families to learn about our Protestant Christian heritage. Halloween costumes welcome. For information, call (601) 906-7710.**

**The adult choir of Bunker Hill Church, Columbia, will present Experiencing God: The Musical Oct. 28, 6 p.m.**

**Springfield Church, Morton, is hosting a community time Oct. 31, 6-7:30 p.m., with games, treats, and supper.**

**First Church, Mathison, will host the Saving Grace Trio and the Chuck Wagon Gang in concert Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m.**

**Franklin Creek Church, Moss Point, will host New Wine, Lucedale, in concert Oct. 28, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. The church will also host its annual fall festival Oct. 31, 5-7 p.m., with free refreshments, activities, and prizes. John Pemberton, pastor. For information, call (228) 475-3471.**

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
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UIK LPSF DPSOO ZF WKI-  
UZF S GSA, ZU PB  
DPSOO VSZA FPB LPIOB  
LIKOT, SAT OIBD PZD ILA  
DIMO?

GSKC BZVPF: FPZKFN: 171

Clue: K = R

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Twelve: Forty-L.

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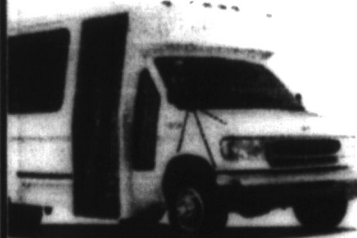
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## College News

Mississippi College is hosting its Fall Preview Day Nov. 3. Check in for visitors is 8 a.m. at the B.C. Rogers Student Center with a continental breakfast, with president Lee Royce and admissions counselors welcoming all visitors at 8:30 a.m. Deadline for registration is Oct. 31. For additional information and schedule of events, contact Scotty Elliott, MC admissions director at MC's Office of Enrollment Services Box 4026, Clinton, MS 39056, phone (800) 738-1236 or e-mail him at [elliott@mc.edu](mailto:elliott@mc.edu). People can also register on-line on the MC web site at [www.mc.edu](http://www.mc.edu) by clicking on admissions.

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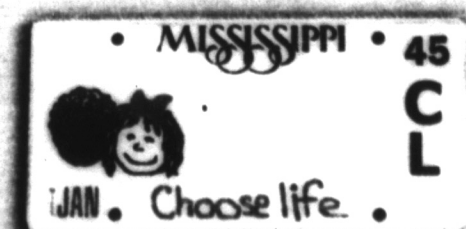
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By purchasing a *Choose Life* tag, you will be supporting pregnancy resource centers across Mississippi in helping meet the physical, emotional and medical needs of women. Simply take your current tag to your local tag office and order a new *Choose Life* tag for just \$31. Your new tag will be mailed to you. It's that easy.

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[chooselifems.org](http://chooselifems.org)

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Phone: 601-206-5816



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

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OCT. 4-18, 2007

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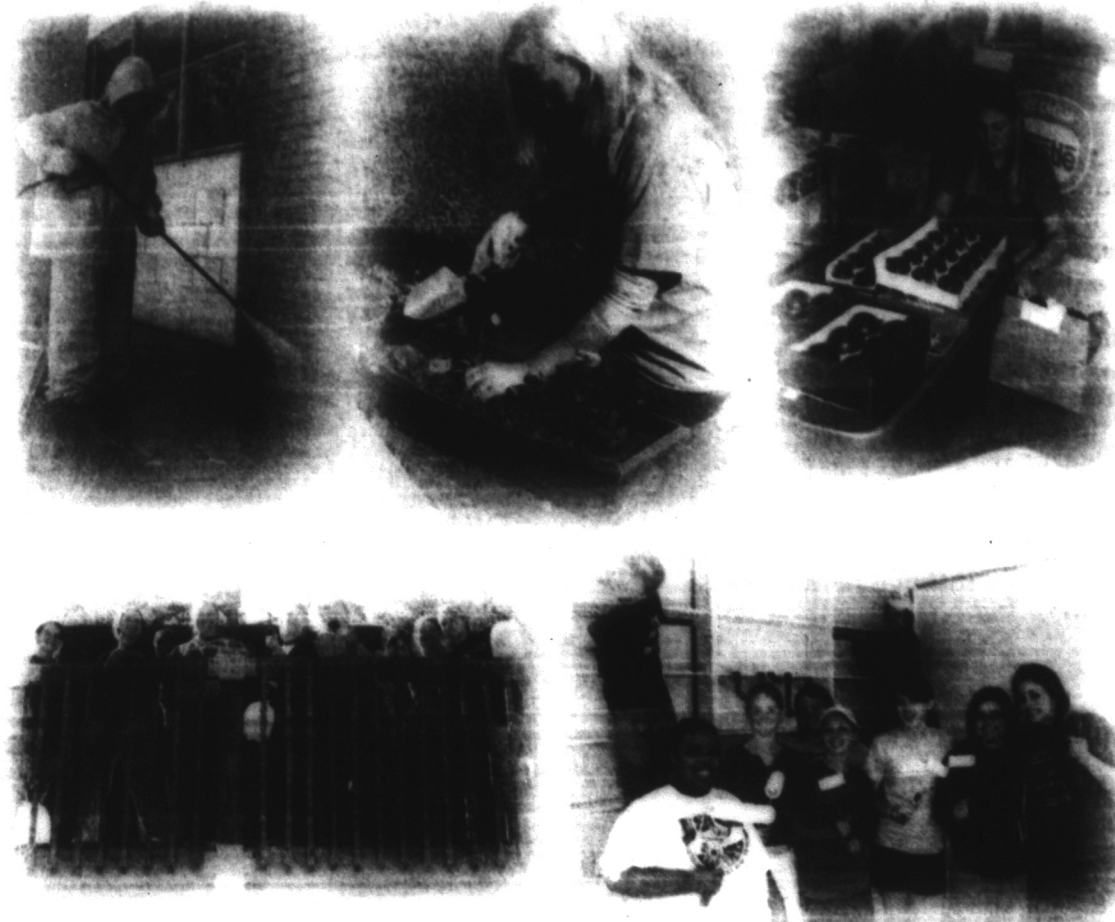
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Swannanoa and Laguna Social Tribes of Mississippi College recently "traded spaces" to work one Saturday morning at The Baptist Children's Village. The two social tribes had nearly 125 ladies involved in the project. They worked on projects with the BCV residents. It was a beautiful fall day and a great time was had by all involved.

## The Baptist Children's Village 2007 Annual Report

Rory Lee, Executive Director

The Baptist Children's Village continues its service as a statewide ministry in five locations throughout Mississippi. Those locations include: Deanash Campus in Wiggins, Dickerson Place Campus in Brookhaven, Farrow Manor Campus in Independence, India Nunnery Campus in Jackson (Central Headquarters) and Reedy Acres Campus in Water Valley.

The BCV has begun to expand operations deliberately seeking to position ourselves within 50 miles of any child needing our services. In July, land was acquired in Winston County for a new site that will provide BCV services, in a homelike setting, to the neglected, abused and orphaned children in east central Mississippi. This increased accessibility to families will allow us to more effectively minister to children and families who need us.

In August, service opened in Columbia to provide transitional living for boys ages 16-21 as they learn to care and provide for themselves as they exit group care and make the transition to independent living. This facility will focus on any remedial educational needs and preparation to begin a productive life as a mature Christian adult.

In each of the new facilities, as well as all existing operations, the mission statement, "to help children and their families fully understand

and experience the healing ministry of Christ by meeting their daily needs, and inspiring them to become Christian adults who are happy, healthy, and mature", and the S.A.F.E. Track program will be emphasized. The S.A.F.E. Track program brings into focus Spiritual Growth, Academic Achievement, Family Values, and Emotional Strength.

There are specific individual goals set in each of the S.A.F.E. Track areas for every resident as they are admitted to the BCV. These goals are discussed and reviewed with the resident to get their input, and to let them know what is necessary to meet the established goals. The goals themselves, and progress toward attaining those goals, are reviewed for each resident every six months.

Services at local churches, daily Bible studies in the cottages, chapel services, and individual conversation about spiritual matters are continually emphasized as a foundational part of the BCV ministry. One resident graduated from high school in May and will be attending Northwest Community College and one graduated from Hinds Community College.

Through the Cooperative Program of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, The BCV receives 13% of its operating budget. An additional 40% of the budget comes from church gifts over and above the CP gifts. We are grateful for the continued support of this ministry.



## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

### RESPECT: Find Out What It Means

Matthew 5:33-48

By Alice Smith

The Christian's reputation should be an extraordinary one. We should be markedly different from those who do not know Jesus, because we do know Him, and knowing Him makes all the difference. Being changed, we must not live life as we did before we came to know Him. Here are some of the ways we should be different:

(1) The Christian must always tell the truth. Is your word your bond? Integrity demands honesty and our Christian witness depends upon it. Matthew 5:37 (HCSB) says, "But let your word 'yes' be 'yes,' and your 'no' be 'no.' Anything more than this is from the evil one." We are not to postulate and bluster with fancy words and oaths, trying to cover up our dishonesty in our deal-

ings with people. A lying tongue and empty oaths meant to deceive others, dishonor Christ. When we lie we deceive, and who is the great deceiver — Satan, himself.

(2) The Christian must be willing to go the second mile. In 5:38-42, Jesus makes it clear that, in our dealings with people, we should do more than is required. We should be prepared to give fully of ourselves to people who may be undeserving. We may ask, "Why should we give to people who don't deserve our help?" Merit is not the basis for this decision. The Christian's question is not, "Does the other deserve my help?" but "How can I help." Love sometimes must be withheld for the good of the person, but Christian response is to be controlled by the needs of the



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other, not the person's merit or the Christian's own "rights." Although an enlightened conscience must decide how to serve the other, love has already decided that one must serve.

We have just marked the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Watching TV and reading the newspaper accounts of the continuing efforts to help the still devastated Mississippi and Louisiana coasts, it has been gratifying, in every instance, to hear the testimonials of people who have been helped by Christians.

A national newscaster stated that if it were not for the churches and individual "people of faith" who have sacrificed to come and help during this time, much of the relief work and rebuilding would not have been done.

This is a perfect example of the respect and value Christians place on the welfare of individuals they do not even know and the sacrifice they are willing to make. They have certainly "gone

the extra mile" and "given both of their coats," when perhaps only one was required.

(3) Christians must love their enemies. Jesus said, in verses 43-47 (HCSB), that we should be people of love to all — friends and also "enemies," those who are unlovable.

"You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy, (44) But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, (45a) so that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. (46a) For if you love who love you, what reward will you have? (47a) And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing out of the ordinary?"

"Christian" means to be a little Christ. Jesus came to save us from our sins and to show us God. God is Love. Do you see the connection? We are to be people who live far above the ordinary with an extraordinary love for others. It is true that when you pray for those whom you do not consider friends, you will find yourselves being able to love them in Christ as God loves you.

(4) Christians are to be perfect as God is perfect. Puzzling words from Jesus, who knows so well our imperfections. It is important to remember, at this point, that salvation is a gift that we can never earn, and we Christians are sinners who need daily forgiveness. The Broadman Commentary says, "One is never farther from goodness than when he thinks he is good." Read that again. Awareness of our sin-state should be so much on our minds and hearts that we are always deeply aware of our need for forgiveness.

However, following Jesus means allowing Him to fill our lives. His perfection is our desire and our goal, a goal we will not meet on this earth. He meets it for us. As we strive to be perfect, as our hearts become more and more attuned with His, and we become more like Him, in our attitudes and actions, the more of Christ will be shown to others.

Smith is a member of First Church, Jackson.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Centered on Christ

Matthew 16:13-28

By Michael Smith

The church of the 21st century faces many challenges to the commitment of being fully devoted followers of Christ. Among the most significant of those challenges is the practice of compartmentalization by many Christians. Compartmentalization is the tendency of many Christians to treat their relationship with Jesus Christ as a component of their lives along with other components such as family, work, and finances (Kenneth Boa, *Conformed to His Image*). For those Christians who treat their relationship with Jesus Christ as merely one component of a full and fulfilling life, Jesus is an important part of their lives, but not the center of their lives.

What is the benchmark of a Christ-centered life? A Christ-

centered life is a cross-bearing life. A life which embraces Christ as the center must also embrace the demands of cross-bearing. Cross-bearing is the daily practice of confessing Jesus as Lord and denying self. Cross-bearing is the daily exercise of forfeiting your "inalienable rights" and enslaving yourself to the cross of Christ. Simply put, cross-bearing is discipleship. The hard fact of the matter, which has long been forgotten, is that authentic discipleship is rarely comfortable, rarely convenient, and never about us. In practice, we boldly confess that Jesus is the Christ, while at the same time refusing the cross of Christ. If this indictment is hard to stomach, take some solace in the fact that we are in good company. In the les-



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son passage for this week, we find the Apostle Peter confessing Jesus as the Christ at one moment and refusing the cross at the very next moment.

#### 1. Peter Boldly Confesses that Jesus is the Christ.

Jesus posed a question to his disciples: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is" (Matthew 16:13)? With very little contemplation, the disciples responded with the prevailing opinions of the day — Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the Prophets. Jesus wanted to test the hearts of the disciples who had abandoned all to follow him. "But what about you...Who do you say that I am" (Matthew 16:15)? Without consulting the group, Peter blurts out loud and clear: "You are the Christ!" "You are the Son of God!" Peter's spiritual insight is rewarded by Jesus with a pronounced blessing:

"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven" (Matthew 16:17). With self-confidence and bold assurance, Peter confessed what he knew in his heart to be true: Jesus was the Christ. Peter's confession of Jesus as the Christ was a declaration that Jesus was God's promised Messiah. Peter's confession of Jesus as the Christ was also a declaration that Jesus would facilitate God's plan for the nations as revealed by the Prophets of old. In other words, Peter confessed Jesus as the Christ with the anticipation that Jesus would "fit" into the long held tradition of who the Messiah would be and what the Messiah would do.

#### 2. Peter Boldly Rejects the Cross of Christ.

Jesus' warm words of affirmation and blessing were still ringing in Peter's ears when he espoused another bold opinion. Upon Jesus foretelling his own

suffering and death, Peter boldly declares that suffering and death could not befall the Messiah: "Never, Lord!" "This shall never happen to you" (Matthew 16:22). With self-confidence and bold assurance, Peter rebuffed the notion that the Messiah could suffer and die. With this bold confession, Peter betrayed his idea that the Messiah would be a conquering hero with political finesse and military prowess sent by God to rid Israel of those pesky Romans. In Peter's mind, the Messiah would defeat the Romans, not die for sinners. In Peter's mind, the Messiah would sit upon a throne of gold, not be nailed to a cross of wood. Jesus as a suffering savior did not "fit" into Peter's notion of Jesus as a conquering hero. In response to Peter's second confession, Jesus' warm words of blessing ignited into fiery words of condemnation. Peter learned the hard lesson that a Christ-centered life is a cross-bearing life.

Smith is pastor of Bethel Church, Monticello.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) type-written, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

# Record





FIRST CHURCH, JACKSON  
EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN  
CONFERENCE, OCT. 12-13, 2007



Photos by Tony Martin